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Among them are the following:

1. The insulation walls around the air vents and in the main chamber have been raised by two layers of magnesium brick to hinder the flow of steel slag into the slag chamber.
2. A change in the refining routine, so that the liquid steel flows out the center loading port, avoiding the flow of slag into the slag chamber.
3. The use of steam to blow the accumulated ash out of the four heating chambers, facilitating the continuous smelting operation.

By means of the above improvements, since the start of the campaign it has been possible to save 5,000 magnesium bricks, 30,000 silica bricks, 27,000 specially shaped fire bricks, 66 tons of coal briquettes, and 13.5 tons of powdered coal. Forty-two days for repairs in the period of smelting have also been saved, and 100 hours have been added to the period of steel output. All the above represents a saving of 816 million yuan to the public.

ASIA STEEL COMPANY RAISES PRODUCTION -- Shanghai, Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 19 Dec 50

After this month's patriotic production campaign was started the Asia Steel Company in Shanghai raised its production and fulfilled its production quota early. The first victory in the battle of production was won in the smelting plant. On the first day of the drive, four large steel-producing furnaces and five small ones not only achieved their scheduled quotas, but also went on to set new records.

The furnaces have, up to now, lasted through 70 charges, and under the watchful care of the workmen, should proceed to the goal of 100. As a result, by 30 November 1950, the entire year's quota for steel ingots had been completed by 120 percent, and over 90 percent of the quota for castings had been completed, with the expectation of fulfilling the entire year's quota before 25 December 1950. Also, the casting shop's quota of couplings will be completed around 20 December, a month earlier than originally planned.

The mold form section, on 10 December, received an order for patterns for making end bearing seats used in bridge construction. The administration allowed a week for their completion, authorizing an extra shift on Sunday, but after the cell in the section held a discussion, the responsibility of the work was divided and the workmen completed the work in 3 days.

COAL MINE IN ANHWEI INCREASES OUTPUT -- Shanghai, Chieh-fang Jih-pao, 25 Dec 50

The Chiu-lung-kang Coal Mine in Huan-pei, Anhwei Province, has been carrying out a patriotic campaign to increase production. Since November, every subdivision of the mine has increased its production, and economizing of timbers has been outstanding. The main Chiu-lung-kang mine normally produced about 300 tons daily, but after the beginning of the drive, on 23 November 1950, production had reached 809 tons daily, an increase of 269 percent.

Branch Mine No 92 produced 450 tons on the opening day of the campaign but its daily production increased to 593 tons on 23 November 1950. Before the drive, the average production was 0.35 tons per worker. In November it had increased to 0.44 tons, and may reach 0.5 tons. As for timbers, it has been possible to economize more than one third, at the same time surpassing the required mine standards.

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CEMENT INDUSTRY MAKING PHENOMENAL PROGRESS -- Shanghai, Ta Kung Pao, 27 Dec 50

With the support of the People's government, the cement industry of East China is making phenomenal progress. Taking the production and sales at the time of the US-Chiang criminal bombing of 6 February 1950, as a base, production had already increased 750 percent by October, and in November it was 720 [sic] percent. With actual needs increasing daily, by September the sales were 900 percent, and in October they had passed the 1,000 percent mark to reach a record breaking 1,050 percent.

NONFERROUS METAL MINING BEATS SCHEDULE -- Hankow, Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 23 Dec 50

The entire year's quota for production of a number of vital products in the nonferrous metals industry has been fulfilled in Central and South China. Up to the first 10 days of December 1950, the projected quota for wolfram ore had been fulfilled 101.3 percent, for pure antimony 107.4 percent, for pure tin 137.6 percent, and for manganese ore 109.7 percent. The quality of the products was outstandingly high, and the cost had also been reduced.

One of the present shortcomings is the necessity of setting up a system of business administration. Although several mines and factories have already established cost-accounting systems, these are still inaccurate, and at times not business-like, thus resulting in a handicap to the development of efficiency.

PRODUCTION RAISED IN HUNAN ZINC SMELTER -- Hankow, Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 11 Dec 50

One month after the beginning of the "Resist US, Aid Korea" campaign, the distillation furnaces of the Hunan Zinc Smelting Company produced over twice as much zinc as before the liberation, while the number of condensers used up has decreased from over 70 daily to only 45. The output of the roasting ovens has risen to 0.8 tons. Although the sulfur content of the prepared ore was more than 2 percent before the liberation, this figure has now been reduced to 1.21 percent. By improving the standards for mechanically agitated ore, which generally contains from 1.5 to 2.5 percent sulfur, the ore now comes out purified and does not require further processing. Formerly, it was necessary to remove the sulfur and ash by an additional process. Through voluntary labor, the top layer of ore in each batch can be agitated eight times, and the bottom layer 15 times.

OIL REFINERY BEGINS PRODUCTION -- Sian, Ch'un-chung Jih-pao, 4 Dec 50

The Ta-pu-ssu Petroleum Refinery in the Yu-men oil field was test fired on 23 October 1950, and began production on 9 November 1950. Construction of the refinery was started on 12 June 1950 and was successfully completed on 15 October 1950.

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